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Agenor Krygler

RW-151

1414

7590  
Friedrich Kueffner  
Suite 910  
317 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

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EXAMINER

FISHER, MICHAEL J

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 5-10 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims not been further treated on the merits.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1,4-6 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US PAT 6,505,774 to Fulcher et al. (Fulcher).

As to claim 1, Fulcher discloses a parking meter (fig 1), for indicating a paid parking time (on the ticket) and with a central control device (512), for a plurality of spaces (col 4, lines 41-43 show an example of this), a selection device for selecting a time (704, as best seen in fig 11), there is a display used to display the information (204), a return device is provided for the return of payment corresponding to the

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parking time not used (col 18, lines 49-51) the central device includes a fee table (706), a time generator for determining the return (722-724), the device is a read-write unit for a card (that which holds the bar code to be scanned), the card can be a "chip card" (col 17, lines 20-25), a code is assigned to the chip card (col 17, lines 22-25), the system is read-write (col 23, lines 15-18), the card is recognized by the unit (col 17, lines 25-35).

As to claim 6, the card has a code connecting it to a charge account (inherent in the card is used to pay). As to claim 4, the system includes a keyboard (col 13, lines 11-15) for accepting information.

As to claims 5 and 10, the battery is 528.

As to claims 9 and 11, a parking space is selected (802).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 1/7/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As to arguments that the time is only displayed on the ticket, the examiner disagrees. The display, as discussed above, discloses the parking information. As to arguments of the risk of selecting the wrong parking time, the limitations as currently claimed do not distinguish from that (whether true or not), as to arguments in relation to an attendant "easily determin(ing)" the parking time, as currently claimed, this would only be possible if the attendant were watching the screen as the customer paid as there is no limitation that includes a display for each space and further, such a modification (if necessary) would exactly mirror that in ordinary parking meters that display time left. As the prior art is disclosed as calculating fees, it would inherently and

necessarily have a "fee table" or else the fees could not be calculated. As discussed above, and as noted in the previous rejection, there is a smart card. The smart card would inherently have "codes" as it is shown to identify the user and be used for payment.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Fisher whose telephone number is 571-272-6804. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5:00pm alt Fri. off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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6/11/08

/Janice A. Mooneyham/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3689